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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commissioner of Labor Highlights Notice of New Enforcement Standard Concerning Hexavalent Chromium

Indianapolis, IN January 26, 2007- Indiana Department of Labor (IDOL) Commissioner Lori A. Torres is issuing a policy, which is IDOL's response to a Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) settlement agreement. The revised hexavalent chromium standard concerns general industry, 29 CFR 1910.1026. The Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA) plans to enforce the standard as modified by its enforcement policy, which is available on the agency's website.

Effective today, Friday, January 26, 2007. The policy delays all enforcement of the rule in Indiana until March 27, 2007 and allows facilities in certain metal finishing industries to opt-in to an alternative enforcement scheme by that same date. The policy is set to expire on May 31, 2010. Eligible facilities may remain subject to the Standard as promulgated, in which no action is required, or elect to be subject to the guidelines of alternative enforcement. Alternative enforcement consists of the following steps: accelerated schedule of engineering controls, preparation and maintenance of compliance plan and monitoring, and the short term relaxation of respirator use guidelines.

Hexavalent Chromium is commonly used in metal finishing activities. The additive is used in plating, coating, and preparation of and maintenance of all appropriate machinery. Hexavalent Chromium is used in both liquid and powder forms. Respirators and other appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) are necessary and essential for compliance to the applied standard.

The policy and opt-in declaration forms are now available on the website of the Indiana Occupation Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA): www.dol.gov/labor/iosha.

For questions concerning this press release or information regarding IDOL programs, please contact Quin Cheatham at 317.232.2683.

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